

REMARKS

This Supplemental Response is submitted in response to the Notice of Improper Request for Continued Examination dated September 13, 2010, the Notices of Non-responsive Amendment dated January 25, 2010 and May 27, 2010, and the Office Action dated on June 18, 2009. Claims 1 to 90 are canceled. Claims 91 to 135 are new. No new matter has been added by these new claims. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any fees due in connection with this Response.

As indicated above, Applicant has canceled Claims 1 to 90 and added new Claims 91 to 135. Applicant submits that newly added Claims 91 to 127 correspond to previously canceled Claims 18 to 54 (which were canceled in the Response to Office Action dated October 27, 2009). Additionally, new Claims 128 to 135 are dependent claims which depend from certain of the independent Claims of new Claims 91 to 127.

Regarding new Claims 91 to 127, Applicant submits that because these claims correspond to previously canceled Claims 18 to 54, these claims are not independent and distinct from the originally filed claims and thus are not directed to a non-elected invention. Thus, regarding Claims 91 to 127, Applicant submits that the Notice of Non-responsive Amendment has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Regarding new Claims 128 to 135, Applicant submits that, as discussed above, Claims 128 to 135 are dependent Claims and depend from certain of the independent Claims of newly added Claims 91 to 127. MPEP 608.01(i) states that:

[o]ne or more claims may be presented in dependent form, referring back to and further limiting another claim or claims in the same application.

Applicant submits that because Claims 128 to 135 depend from certain of the independent Claims of newly added Claims 91 to 127 and because Claim 128 to 135 comply with MPEP 608.01(i), Claims 128 to 135 do not cause this response to be non-responsive.

The June 18, 2009 Office Action rejected Claims 18 to 26, 28 to 36, 38 to 41 and 44 to 52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,027,115 (Griswold et al; "Griswold"). Additionally, the June 18, 2009 Office Action rejected

Claims 27, 37, 42, 43, 53 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Griswold in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,452,276 to Loose et al. ("Loose").

Regarding newly added Claim 91 (which corresponds to canceled Claim 18), Applicant submits that Griswold does not anticipate a display device for displaying symbols in a player-operable entertainment machine comprising at least one movable member having a symbol-bearing support, and a signal-generating device characterised in that the support is a signal-actuable support whereby the symbols are produced on said support by supply of signals thereto from said signal-generating device.

On the other hand, independent Claim 91 includes a display device for displaying symbols in a player-operable entertainment machine comprising at least one movable member having a symbol-bearing support, and a signal-generating device characterised in that the support is a signal-actuable support whereby the symbols are produced on said support by supply of signals thereto from said signal-generating device.

For at least this reason, Applicant submits that Claim 91 is patentably distinguished over Griswold and in condition for allowance.

Claims 92, 94 to 98, 100 to 107 and 128 to 135 depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 91 and are also allowable for the reasons given with respect to independent Claim 91 and because of the additional features recited in these claims.

Independent Claims 93, 99, 108, 114 and 121 each include certain similar elements to independent Claim 91. For reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent Claim 91, independent Claims 93, 99, 108, 114 and 121 (and dependent Claims 109 to 113, 115 to 120 and 122 to 127) are each patentably distinguished over Griswold and in condition for allowance.

Additionally, regarding Claim 128, Applicant submits that Griswold discloses a gaming device having a plurality of reels and a plurality of reel strips. Each reel strip includes electroluminescent elements which define one or more reel symbols. The electronic reel strips include inked images of the symbols in addition to the electroluminescent elements. The electroluminescent elements and the inked images enable the reel symbols to be displayed in multiple formats (Abstract).

In a first embodiment, the gaming device of Griswold includes reel symbols which appear to rotate with the reels. Specifically, Griswold discloses:

[i]n one aspect, the present invention provides a reel for a slot machine. The reel may be characterized as including the following elements: (a) an internal reel portion rotatable about an axis and having an outer circumferential region and (b) a reel strip mounted on the outer circumferential region. The reel strip includes (i) a plurality of symbol regions for displaying symbols to a player of the slot machine and (ii) one or more light elements in one or more of the symbol regions, which light elements can be illuminated independently of one another. Preferably, the one or more light elements are electroluminescent elements (col. 2, line 60 to col. 3, line 3).

The first embodiment of Griswold appears to employ light elements (e.g., electroluminescent elements) on the symbol regions of the reel strips instead of illuminating the symbols with an illumination device. Moreover, Griswold discloses that "[b]y employing light elements on the symbol display regions of the reel strips, it may no longer be necessary to provide lighting with the reels" (col. 2, lines 42 to 48).

Unlike Claim 128, the first embodiment of Griswold does not anticipate or render obvious a display device which includes, among other elements, a first frame supported by the housing, the first frame supporting the first rotatable member, a first illumination device supported by the first frame, the first illumination device being stationary relative to the first frame, a first rotatable member supported by the first frame, and a first electronic symbol display device supported by the first rotatable member.

In a second embodiment, the gaming device of Griswold includes reel symbols which appear to be selectively back lighted (see Figures 6A and 6B of Griswold which are reproduced below). Regarding such back lighting, Griswold discloses:

[a]nother illuminated reel design is illustrated in FIGS. 6A-6B. This embodiment employs selectively back lighted reel symbols. The system utilizes a stepper motor reel assembly which may be similar to those utilized in conventional slot machines such as the IGT S-Plus product (available from International Game Technology of Reno, Nev.). In one specific embodiment, the physical reel strips have 22 stops, i.e., places where the reel is stopped after spinning. Eleven of the spaces (every other space) on the reel strip is a blank.

Ten of the remaining 11 spaces on the reel strip are printed with compound symbols. The remaining symbol is a Jackpot symbol unique to the personality of the game. Other reel and symbol arrangements are of course possible. Importantly, compound symbols are printed on the reel strip in such a manner as to be transparent and they are also covered by a translucent covering layer. These compound symbols are not visible until lighted from behind. As illustrated in FIG. 6A, examples of a compound reel strip assembly 603 symbol might be a single bar 605, a double bar 607, and a triple bar 609. The symbol is actually printed as a triple bar symbol. However, by selectively back lighting each of the components of the triple bar symbol, it can be presented as a single, double or triple bar. Many other combinations of compound symbols are possible (col. 8, line 58 to col. 9, line 14) (emphasis added).

FIG. 6B illustrates one mechanism suitable for implementing a compound reel strip such as that depicted in FIG. 6A. As shown in FIG. 6B, inside the reel assembly 603 and immediately behind a viewing area corresponding to the pay line(s) is a light diffuser assembly 615. There is one light diffuser assembly per reel and it consists of terminations of a multiplicity of fiber optic bundles 613 which couple the diffuser 615 to a light source 611. The light source 611 is an array of multiple colored light elements 617 such as LEDs, incandescent lamps or other sources of high intensity light. These light source elements 617 are driven by the game processor (not shown) which controls the game outcome. The light source elements 617, the fiber optic bundles 613 and the diffuser assembly 615 are constructed in such a manner as to allow selective illumination of reel symbol elements. Thus, using the above example of a compound single, double or triple bar symbol, it would be possible to illuminate the component symbols of the compound symbol in selected colors, e.g., a red single bar, a blue triple bar a green double bar, etc. In one example, the Jackpot symbol is not a compound symbol, but it could, nevertheless, be selectively illuminated in various colors by selecting the appropriate light source elements (col. 9, lines 15 to 37) (emphasis added).

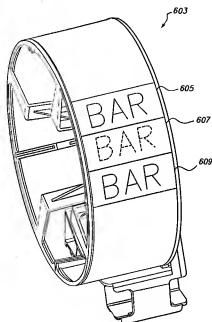


FIG. 6A

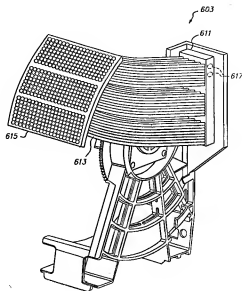
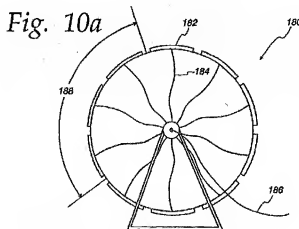


FIG. 6B

The second embodiment of Griswold appears to employ a light source (e.g., light source 611 in Figure 6B) in combination with selectively back lighted reel symbols (e.g., triple bar 609 in Figure 6A) printed or inked on the reel strip. However, unlike Claim 128, the second embodiment of Griswold does not anticipate or render obvious a display device which includes, among other elements, a first frame supported by the housing, the first frame supporting the first rotatable member, a first illumination device supported by the first frame, the first illumination device being stationary relative to the first frame, a first rotatable member supported by the first frame, and a first electronic symbol display device supported by the first rotatable member.

Figure 10a of Loose (which is reproduced below) illustrates the first embodiment of Loose, which includes a mechanical reel having a video display at each symbol location.



Specifically, regarding Figure 10a, Loose discloses:

FIG. 10a illustrates yet another alternative in which the system 180 includes a reel having a plurality of video displays 182 at each symbol location. Each video display 182 is capable of displaying various video symbols, which provides the system 180 with the flexibility of a true video slot machine, while preserving the movement of mechanical reels that numerous slot machine players find desirable. The signal for producing the video symbols is transmitted to each video display 182 by a wire 184. A primary power cable 186 feeds the signals into the reel where the signals are distributed to the wires 184 (see FIG. 10b). The video displays 182 can be a liquid crystal display (LCD), dot matrix, vacuum fluorescence display, organic liquid crystal display (OLCD), LED array, Electronic paper, or any other display device capable of producing images (col. 7, lines 26 to 40).

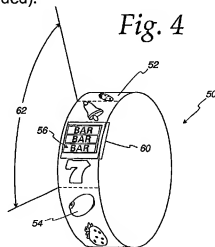
Unlike Claim 128, the first embodiment of Loose does not appear to anticipate or render obvious a display device which includes, among other elements, a first frame supported by the housing, the first frame supporting the first rotatable member, a first illumination device supported by the first frame, the first illumination device being stationary relative to the first frame, a first rotatable member supported by the first frame, and a first electronic symbol display device supported by the first rotatable member. Even if the video displays of Loose could be combined with the reels of Griswold, the proposed combination of Griswold and Loose does not render obvious Claim 128.

Loose discloses a second embodiment in which a video display provides symbol images and backlighting for a reel (see Figure 4 of Loose reproduced below). Regarding Figure 4, Loose discloses:

FIG. 4 illustrates a mechanical reel 50 having an outer surface 52 with a plurality of symbols 54. In one of the symbol locations, a transparent window 56 is located on the outer surface 52. A video display 60 is located at a fixed position behind the mechanical reel 50 for displaying a video symbol through the transparent window 56. In the embodiment of FIG. 4, the video display 60 is slightly larger than the size of the window 56 and is located as close to the window 56 as possible. The transparent window 56 preferably is clear polymeric window, but can be glass, as well (col. 4, line 63 to col. 5, line 5) (emphasis added).

The video display 60 may be located at the general position where traditional reel backlighting would be located. The video display 60 can be a CRT display, liquid crystal display (LCD), dot matrix, vacuum fluorescence display, organic liquid crystal display (OLCD), LED array, Electronic paper, or any other display device capable of producing images (col. 5, lines 35 to 40) (emphasis added).

Further, one larger video display 60 could provide the video symbols and backlighting for several reels. For example, the video display 60 may have three distinct sections, one for each reel in a three-reel slot machine, that provide backlighting or video symbols (col. 5, lines 41 to 45) (emphasis added).

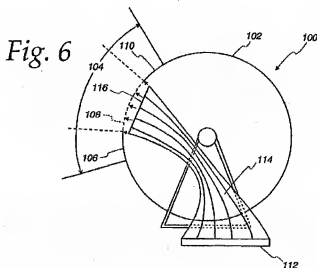


Unlike Claim 128, the second embodiment of Loose does not appear to anticipate or render obvious a display device which includes, among other elements, a first frame supported by the housing, the first frame supporting the first rotatable member, a first illumination device supported by the first frame, the first illumination device being stationary relative to the first frame, a first rotatable member supported by the first frame, and a first electronic symbol display device supported by the first rotatable member. Even if the video display of Loose could be combined with the reels of Griswold, the proposed combination of Griswold and Loose does not render obvious Claim 128.

Loose discloses a third embodiment in which a mechanical reel having a plurality of symbols operates with a fiber optic bundle (see Figure 6 of Loose reproduced below). Regarding Figure 6, Loose discloses:

FIG. 6 depicts a system 100 having a mechanical reel 102 with a display region 104. The display region 104 is of a width allowing for viewing of three symbols in a first symbol region 106, a second symbol region 108, and a third symbol region 110. In FIG. 6, the first symbol region 106 and the third symbol region 110 have normal symbols displayed thereon. On the other hand, the second symbol region 108 has a transparent window (dashed lines) (col. 6, lines 7 to 14).

A display device 112 develops images that are transmitted through a plurality of optical fibers 114 (e.g., a light pipe). The optical fibers 114 have an end region 116 that projects the image through the transparent window in the second window region. While shown as flat, the end region 116 may be rounded, preferably at a radius that approximates the radius of the mechanical reel 102. The display device 112 can be located outside the reel 102 (i.e., outside the cylindrical volume defined by the reel) and the optical fibers can extend into the reel 102 so as to produce the image in the transparent window. Also, the display device 112 and optical fibers 114 can serve to provide images and backlighting for several reels 102 (col. 6, lines 15 to 27) (emphasis added).



Unlike Claim 128, the third embodiment of Loose does not appear to anticipate or render obvious a display device which includes, among other elements, a first frame supported by the housing, the first frame supporting the first rotatable member, a first illumination device supported by the first frame, the first illumination device being stationary relative to the first frame, a first rotatable member supported by the first frame, and a first electronic symbol display device supported by the first rotatable member. Even if the fiber optic bundle of Loose could be combined with the reels of Griswold, the proposed combination of Griswold and Loose does not render obvious Claim 128.

Loose discloses a fourth embodiment in which a light source backlights compound symbols on a reel (see Figures 12a and 12b of Loose reproduced below). Regarding Figures 12a and 12b, Loose discloses:

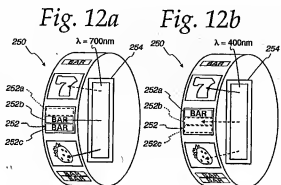
FIGS. 12a and 12b illustrate a reel 250 that can be used by itself or in conjunction with the embodiments of FIGS. 4-8. The reel 250 has a symbol location 252 which provides a compound symbol, which is a symbol that is capable of being visualized as more than one symbol. For the purposes of describing this feature of the present invention, the compound symbol is of the "bar symbol" genre. As an example, when the wavelength of light is 700 nanometers from a light source 254 (FIG. 12a), the bottom two bars 252a, 252b in the bar symbol are visible to the player, making the compound symbol appear like a double bar symbol. In this instance, the top bar 252a is not responsive to the light at 700 nanometers, such that it is not visible.

Alternatively, when the wavelength is 400 nanometers (FIG. 12b), the top bar 252a appears visible to the player, while the bottom two bars 252b, 252c are not responsive. Thus, the overall appearance is a single bar symbol when 400 nanometer light is used (col. 8, lines 15 to 31) (emphasis added).

The source 254 can be any kind of display device capable of providing various output wavelengths. In one preferred embodiment, the source 254 is an array of multi-colored LEDs. While colored bulbs may work, the LEDs are preferred since the bulbs get hot and burn out due to cycling, and white bulbs become yellow over time. In these situations, the LED is used for backlighting when non-compound symbols require such backlighting and for selective wavelength lighting when one or more features of a compound symbol require visualization. The source 254 can also be an electroluminescent element (col. 8, lines 32 to 42) (emphasis added).

Further, the reel can include compound symbols at some locations and transparent windows in other locations to provide varying degrees of versatility. For such a system, the source 254 must also be able to provide video symbols for display through the transparent window (col. 8, lines 43 to 47) (emphasis added).

The invention described in FIG. 12 contemplates using various wavelengths of energy to achieve the display of more than one symbol in one symbol location on the reel 250. For example, ultra-violet energy may be projected to cause the fluorescing of certain colored reel symbols so as to make them more visible, or a black light can be used to highlight certain symbol features in a compound symbol (col. 8, lines 48 to 55) (emphasis added).



Unlike Claim 128, the fourth embodiment of Loose does not appear to anticipate or render obvious a display device which includes, among other elements, a first frame supported by the housing, the first frame supporting the first rotatable member, a first illumination device supported by the first frame, the first illumination device being stationary relative to the first frame, a first rotatable member supported by the first frame, and a first electronic symbol display device supported by the first rotatable member. Even if the light source of Loose could be combined with the reels of Griswold, the proposed combination of Griswold and Loose does not render obvious Claim 128.

At least for the additional above reasons, Claim 128 is patentably distinguished over Griswold and the proposed combination of Griswold and Loose. Accordingly, Claim 128 is in condition for allowance.

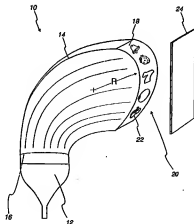
Claims 129 to 135 each include certain similar elements to Claim 128. For reasons similar to those discussed above regarding Claim 128, Claims 129 to 135 are each also patentably distinguished over Griswold and the proposed combination of Griswold and Loose.

Further, regarding Claim 132, Griswold does not anticipate or render obvious a display device which includes, among other elements, a first frame supported by the housing, the first frame supporting the first rotatable member, a first illumination device supported by the first frame, wherein the first illumination device is stationary relative to the first frame, and a first organic light-emitting diode symbol display device supported by a first frame, wherein the first organic light-emitting diode symbol display device

includes a first curved display surface that defines a plurality of different symbol positions, and wherein the first organic light-emitting diode symbol display device is stationary relative to the first frame and positioned between the first rotatable member and the first illumination device.

Loose does not remedy Griswold regarding Claim 132. A fifth embodiment of Loose (see Figure 2 of Loose reproduced below) discloses an image display device (e.g., an organic light-emitting diode) that provides output to a fiber optic bundle (col. 4, lines 4 to 10 of Loose). The fiber optic bundle includes one end which is located on "a curved plane having a radius R that approximates the curvature of a typical mechanical reel" (col. 4, lines 18 to 20 of Loose).

Fig. 2



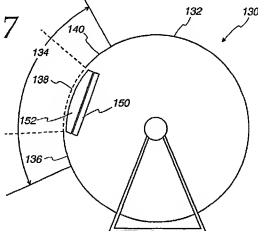
Unlike Claim 132, the fifth embodiment of Loose does not appear to anticipate or render obvious a display device which includes, among other elements, a first frame supported by the housing, the first frame supporting the first rotatable member, a first illumination device supported by the first frame, wherein the first illumination device is stationary relative to the first frame, and a first organic light-emitting diode symbol display device supported by a first frame, wherein the first organic light-emitting diode symbol display device includes a first curved display surface that defines a plurality of different symbol positions, and wherein the first organic light-emitting diode symbol display device is stationary relative to the first frame and positioned between the first rotatable member and the first illumination device. Even if the display device of Loose

(shown in Figure 2) could be combined with the reels of Griswold, the proposed combination of Griswold and Loose does not render obvious Claim 132.

Loose discloses a sixth embodiment in which a mechanical reel system includes a display device and a lens located in front of the display device (see Figure 7 of Loose reproduced below). Regarding Figure 7, Loose discloses:

FIG. 7 illustrates a mechanical reel system 130 having a reel 132 with a display region 134 that includes a first symbol region 136, a second symbol region 138, and a third symbol region 140. The display device 150 is positioned in the middle of the display region 134 to provide images to a transparent window in the reel 132 or backlighting for typical reel symbols. A lens 152 is located in front of the display device 150 to provide curvature to the video symbol and cause it to more resemble the symbol on the reel 152. While the lens 152 is shown as being used with a display device 150, the lens 152 may also be placed on the ends of a fiber optic bundle, such as the one shown in FIG. 6. Also, it should be noted that any of the video displays previously described could have a curved surface mimicking the curvature of the mechanical reel (col. 6, lines 28 to 41) (emphasis added).

Fig. 7



Unlike Claim 132, the sixth embodiment of Loose does not appear to anticipate or render obvious a display device which includes, among other elements, (a first frame supported by the housing, the first frame supporting the first rotatable member, a first illumination device supported by the first frame, wherein the first illumination device is stationary relative to the first frame, and a first organic light-emitting diode symbol display device supported by a first frame, wherein the first organic light-emitting diode

symbol display device includes a first curved display surface that defines a plurality of different symbol positions, and wherein the first organic light-emitting diode symbol display device is stationary relative to the first frame and positioned between the first rotatable member and the first illumination device. Even if the display device of Loose (shown in Figure 7) could be combined with the reels of Griswold, the proposed combination of Griswold and Loose does not render obvious Claim 132.

At least for the additional above reasons, Claim 132 is patentably distinguished over Griswold and the proposed combination of Griswold and Loose. Accordingly, Claim 132 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 133 to 135 each include certain similar elements to Claim 132. For reasons similar to those discussed above regarding Claim 132, Claims 133 to 135 are each also patentably distinguished over Griswold and the proposed combination of Griswold and Loose.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

K&L Gates LLP

BY



Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
Customer No. 29159

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